

XVI.

C Examples of the good Effects from the use of the
the Hydrargyrus Muriatus Mitis, in Cases of
the Cynanche Trachealis, or Croup. By Mr
James Anderson sen. Surgeon in Edinburgh.

UPON the 19th of July 1796, I was called
to see the son of W. M. aged eighteen
months. He had the general symptoms of
fever, with that mode of breathing which pe-
culiarly characterises the croup. He was or-
dered an emetic immediately, and, after its
operation, to be put into the warm-bath.

On the 20th, the symptoms of croup increa-
sing, he had a laxative ; was blistered upon
the throat, and leeches were applied to the
part as nearly as the blister would admit. He
was again ordered into the warm-bath.

On the 21st, although the blister had risen
well, and the leeches bled freely, the croup
was

was increased to an alarming degree. Throughout this day, the agonies of my patient were such as every practitioner may have witnessed in the last stage of this awful disease. An eminent physician in this city was desired to visit the child along with me, who, seeing the inefficacy of the ordinary remedies, advised that calomel should be tried, as having been attended with much success in America. Accordingly, three grains were given this evening, in a tea-spoonful of the following :

R. Syrup. aceti. ʒi.

Extract. papaver. alb. gr. i m.
cap. cochlear. parv. 2do. quaq.
hor.

On the morning of the 22d, there was an appearance of abatement of the disease, and the calomel was repeated in the same quantity. During the day, the sound of respiration was softened. He coughed frequently ; his pulse fell ; he had several loose stools ; and the disease evidently abated. The syrup was repeated every two hours, and the same dose of calomel at bed-time.

When I called upon the 23d, I was agreeably

ably surpris'd to find my patient quite cheery and playful. His breathing was easy, and without noise ; but his cough had still a crouped sound. He expectorated a very viscid mucus ; but nothing that could be positively called membraneous. His medicines were continued on the 24th and 25th, in the same doses , after which, he only took two grains of calomel at bed-time ; to which a few grains of jalap were added, when his bowels were slow.

Upon the 29th, he was so well, that the use of the calomel was laid aside.

Sept. 3. 1799. He has never had any return of the disease.

CASE II.

Upon the 18th of August 1796, I was desired to visit the daughter of D. R. aged nineteen months.

I found her face flushed, and swelled ; her skin hot ; pulse very frequent ; and a great degree of croup, although but of few hours standing.

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Without

Without premising any thing else, I gave her four grains of calomel in the syrup used in the former case.

On the morning of the 19th, she was put into the warm-bath; and the same dose of calomel repeated. During the day, the good effects of the medicine became evident, although she had only one easy motion of her bowels. In the evening, the calomel was repeated.

On the 20th, she had the calomel again, although the disease had disappeared, leaving behind it some degree of pyrexia.

The child died a short time after this, in malignant measles; but without any recurrence of the croup.

CASE III.

Upon the 9th May 1797, I visited the daughter of Mr B. aged about three years. This gentleman, who is anxious that the fact should be made public, had already lost two fine children in the croup.

I found her completely in for this disease,
and

and her parents labouring under the deepest affliction.

Mr B. lives about five miles from town, and employs a surgeon in a neighbouring village, with whom I met.

I mentioned to him, the dependance I had upon the use of calomel; and he consented to let her have four grains immediately. He would have been against the practice, but said she was exactly in the situation of the two former children, and would therefore give the case up to me. She took about seven grains of calomel in the twenty-four hours.

Upon the 10th, I found the disease at a stand, and she had the same proportion of calomel.

Upon the 11th, the croup was gone, although the pyrexia continued, with a great degree of redness and heat of her skin. These went off by the antiphlogistic regimen in a few days; and she had no return of the disease at this date, Sept. 3. 1799*.

* In this case, the syrup, as above, was also used.

CASE IV.

The child of Mr R. I. was seized with the croup, upon the 4th of April 1798.

When I saw him, and found that the symptoms had made very rapid progress within a few hours, I administered a very strong emetic, which operated but gently. Within half an hour from the operation of the vomit, he took three grains of calomel, which were repeated at mid-day, and again in the evening:

Upon the morning of the 5th, the symptoms were much relieved. During this day, he took only six grains of calomel, with which quantity he was continued during the 6th and 7th; by which time the disease had entirely disappeared.

Of several cases which have occurred since the above, I took no notes. Some of these died before more than two doses of the calomel could be taken; but the proportion of deaths was very small indeed.

The

The calomel never induced vomiting ; notwithstanding the quantity taken, the bowels were moved but gently, and it was sometimes necessary to add a few grains of the pulv. jalap. to procure a stool. The mouth was never rendered very sore, although moistened by a discharge of viscid mucus.

